**Implementation of Sethu Samundram Canal Project**

3542. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2564 given on 9th December, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have received the reports submitted by Shri A. Ramasamy Mudaliar, Sri Venkateswaram, Sri R. Natarajan, Sri J.I. Coil Pillai and Sri H.R. Laxminarayan about the economic viability of the Sethu Samudram Canal Project;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in the above reports; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow the private sector to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The reports have recommended taking up of this project.

(c) There is no such proposal for the present.

**Productivity Rate in Handloom Weaving States**

3543. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the productivity rate of major handloom weaving States, State-wise; and

(b) what are the reasons for poor productivity if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) According to a Census carried out by various State Governments in 1987-88, the productivity of handloom cloth per day per loom in some of the major handloom weaving States has been as under:—

| Name of the State | Productivity (in metres) |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 4.91 |
| Assam | 0.63 |
| Bihar | 11.79 |
| Karnataka | 5.93 |
| Maharashtra | 8.33 |
| Orissa | 7.56 |
| Tamilnadu | 4.77 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 11.31 |
| West Bengal | 10.17 |

(b) The productivity of a loom in a State is derived by making use of total monthly production of fabrics, number of working looms and average number of days worked per month by a household in the State. The productivity of a loom depends on the type of fabrics produced, design employed, type of loom used, capacity of the weaver, etc. In a number of States weaving is a part time activity for supplementing the overalll income of the household.

**Earnings of Handloom Weavers**

3544. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the number of handloom weavers in the country and their average earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): According to a Census conducted in 1987-88 through various State Governments, there were 65.33 lakh persons engaged in the weaving and preparatory activities in the handloom sector. One of the findings of this Census on the economic status of the weavers revealed that 50.0 per cent of the total weaver households in the country earn more than Rs. 500/= per month from all sources including weaving, while rest of the weaver households on an average earn less than Rs. 500/= per month.